

## 2. How do I become a member of the Catholic Church?

One can become a member of the Catholic Church from infancy to adulthood.

Infants are baptized - Baptism being the first Sacrament of Initiation - into the Catholic Church. Here the parents speak on behalf of the child requesting that the child be baptized into the faith. Ongoing formation will take place as the child gets older through consistent Mass attendance and eventual enrollment in Sunday School. This will naturally progress to the reception of the other two Sacraments of Initiation, namely, Holy Communion and Confirmation. After receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation one is considered as having come into “full communion with the faith”, more specifically, a full member of the Catholic Church.

[Click here to read more on Infant Baptism at Stella Maris Catholic Church](#)

[Click here to find out about Sunday School at Stella Maris Catholic Church](#)

Regarding adults, the Catholic Church has a process of formation called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). RCIA is geared towards guiding adults into the Church whether they had previously been baptized into another church or have not been baptized. Where one has already been validly baptized, baptism will not be required. All RCIA candidates will then be prepared for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation.

During the formation process you will learn the history, beliefs and values of the Roman Catholic Church. You will also learn the proper order of celebration of the Mass. You will be required to attend Mass; however, you may not receive Communion until you have fully entered the Church. In spite of this, your involvement in the Church allows you participate in prayers and become involved with the community by joining a ministry which can help to solidify your commitment.

[Click here to find out about RCIA at Stella Maris Catholic Church](#)